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SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

Letter dated 2 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 26 June 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the eve of the parliamentary elections in Albania (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 38 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Jean-Louis WOLZFELD
Permanent Representative of
Luxembourg to the United Nations

* A/52/50.

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 26 June 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the eve of the parliamentary elections in Albania

The European Union urges the political parties and all citizens of Albania to participate in the elections on 29 June and 6 July 1997 in a peaceful and orderly manner, acting in a spirit of true reconciliation. EU expects the Albanian parties to respect the results of legitimate elections and to accept the assessment with regard to the validity of the elections to be pronounced by Mme. Lalumière (for the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)), in cooperation with Sir Russell Johnston (for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) and Mr. Ruperez (for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly).

While the holding of free and fair elections is Albania's own responsibility, EU reaffirms its commitment to provide support for the elections within the coordinating framework of OSCE, including a large number of monitors from member States.

EU stresses the importance of the consolidation of the national reconciliation process after the elections and expresses the hope that they will lead to the formation of a new Government which will enjoy broad support among the Albanian population as well as the cooperation of all political forces in Albania. A new Government must, with the assistance of the international community as a whole and of EU in particular, restore confidence in the democratic structures of the country and lead Albania towards economic recovery.

EU is prepared to support economic recovery in Albania provided that Albania meets the conditions set at the Preparatory Conference held in Rome on 26 May 1997. Future relations between EU and Albania will depend upon full restoration of democratic principles, respect for human rights and the rights of minorities, sound economic practices as well as cooperative relations between Albania and its neighbours. The continuation of the process of national reconciliation following the elections will be a prerequisite for defining the terms of international aid.

EU expresses support and appreciation for the neutral and impartial way in which the multinational protection force, in which several EU member States are participating, is carrying out its tasks in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, in close cooperation with the Albanian authorities.

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.